

(c) To create public awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide and to implement the provisions of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (PNDT Act), intensified activities have been undertaken through print and electronic media.

Non-Government Organisations are also being involved for generating awareness among the masses, including service providers and law enforcing agencies about the provisions of the P.N.D.T. Act.

All the States/UTs have been advised to take necessary action for the effective implementation of the PNDT Act. A meeting of the Appropriate Authorities in all States/Districts have been held to sensitize them about the gravity of the situation and to take steps to implement the provisions of the Act in earnestness.

A Technical Sub-Committee under the Central Supervisory Board has been constituted to examine the possibility of amending the P.N.D.T. Act keeping in view the emerging technologies and to eliminate the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Act.

UN General Assembly's Ambitions Battle Plan for HIV/AIDS

1576. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the UN General Assembly has drawn up and announced an ambitious battle plan for controlling HIV/AIDS and has called upon all the member countries to extend their effective participation/cooperation in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have drawn up any blue print to fight this menace and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken for the effective implementation of the strategies to eliminate the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A declaration of commitment for HIV/AIDS was adopted in the UN General Assembly's Special Session on HIV/AIDS in New York on the 25th to 27th June, 2001. The detailed declaration is given in Annexure [See Appendix 193 Annexure No. 13]

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II covers all the aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention and control. The key components are:

- * Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.
- * Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- * Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- * Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- * Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

For the effective implementation of the programme, State AIDS Control Societies have been created in all States/UTs and three Municipal Corporations namely Mumbai, Chennai and Ahmedabad.

Supply of Albumin Blood

1577. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many licences have, so far, been issued by the Drug Controller General of India during the last one year for supply of albumin blood into India;

(b) whether the blood so imported met the required standards; and

(c) who are the distributors supplying blood to hospitals in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No licence has been issued for the supply of albumin blood into India.

(b) Does not arise in view of 'a' above.

(c) Blood is supplied to Hospitals by licensed Blood Banks.

Protection of Herbal Plants

†1578. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the species of herbal plants are becoming extinct rapidly in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.